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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Romania--The Odd Man Out

The Romanian military attaché in Budapest has told his US counterpart that Bucharest's independent stance at Helsinki has drawn sharp criticism from the Soviets and others in the Warsaw Pact. He further complained of being ostracized by the Pact embassies in the Hungarian capital.

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State Dept. review
completed



DIA review(s) completed.

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These comments came in a one hour discussion over a wide range of topics which included the source's concern over rumors that the "Soviet Navy was recently established at Varna and the elements of the Soviet Air Force are now stationed in Bulgaria." If this is true, the attaché reasoned, Romania will be the only Pact member without Soviet forces stationed on its soil, and as such, he implied, would be under greater pressure to conform to the Pact. There is no evidence of any Soviet "stationing" of forces in Bulgaria. In fact, the Romanians appear to be peddling rumors in order to focus more attention on, and dramatize, their problems in dealing with Moscow--at a time when they are pressing their case for the equality of all states in the MPT at Helsinki.

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Economic Plenum Opens in Prague

A plenary session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party--devoted to economic questions--opened today in Prague. According to preliminary reports in the Czechoslovak press, the meeting will "assess the results of the second year of the current five-year plan period." The current official line is that the state of the economy testifies to the "correctness of the policy pursued by the new Party leadership since April 1969 (read: Husak regime);" therefore, the surfacing of any major economic problems at the plenum is not expected.

Husak, in a 29 November speech at the East Bohemian town of Usti-nad-Orlici, promised that the plenum would consider (and pass) "new and important social measures that will concern a large number of the population." Specifically, he promised more financial help for families with several children and young married couples, measures that will entail some two billion crowns (official rate: approximately 13 crowns=\$ 1 US). Husak continues to promote measures that give a better standard of living and the population is constantly reminded that it never had it so good.

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Economic Scandals in Zagreb

The mayor of Zagreb, Josip Kolar, and several lesser officials have been forced to resign in a scandal called "the theft of the century" by the Zagreb press. This case is only one of a series of economic scandals in Croatia and a strong campaign has been launched to emphasize the party's responsibility for preventing the recurrence of economic crime. Local

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party officials have even been criticized for trying to cover up the story.

In this particular case, Kolar got into trouble because the city guaranteed loans by the Zagreb Credit Bank to a firm whose director fled Yugoslavia, allegedly with the proceeds of large hard-currency transactions, which amounted to circa \$17 million.

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The American Consul in Zagreb comments that the local and possibly national focus given to the case may lead to queries about the director's status and whereabouts.

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Bulgars Warn of CIA Threat

Sofia's annual campaign against foreign intelligence intrigue and machination is off to a late start. This year's witch-hunt to uncover bourgeois and imperialist spies appears to be utilizing the same loud vilification of real or imagined enemies in the West which have highlighted earlier campaigns. Narodna Armiya on 30 November carried an article by Lt. General Vasil Terziev entitled "Revolutionary Vigilance--At Higher Levels." According to Terziev, the struggle against bourgeois ideology, against anti-Sovietism, against anti-Communism and nationalism is of high priority concern to the Bulgarian Communist Party. "Imperialist" intelligence agencies, foremost of which Terziev says is the CIA, are trying to obtain information on Bulgaria and a major target is the Bulgarian military.

Terziev cites the case of a Dr. B. K. This "unscrupulous citizen who has trampled his national dignity" worked for Western intelligence. He allegedly used his official position to acquire information about weapons, troop strengths and military maneuvers. He was, says Terziev, discovered and justly sentenced for espionage.

One of the tricks allegedly employed by Bulgaria's enemies is to have agents present themselves as persons of Bulgarian origin or from fraternal countries in order to win the confidence of the local citizenry. These agents not only spy, but try to spread "anti-Communist and anti-Soviet" feelings among Bulgarian soldiers.

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The Bulgarians in recent years have unearthed some clandestine operations being carried out by unspecified Western intelligence agencies. No matter whose operation it is, the blame always ultimately falls on the CIA. In this case, there are no signs that an espionage plot has been uncovered. The current campaign appears to be just that--a campaign as much to keep the Bulgarian populace vigilant and in line as anything else.

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